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Council On Aging Minutes 02/17/2011

Arlington Council on Aging
 Director
 27 Maple Street
 Arlington, Ma 02476

John Jope Executive

Meeting Minutes February 17, 2011

Meeting commenced at 4:02 pm

Present: Lucilia Prates, Bill Carey, Harry McCabe, Joanne Morel, Karen Nichols, Annette Bender, Ann FitzGerald and John Jope Executive Director
 Guests Sue Culhane, Deborah Miller(late), Maureen Jackson President ASA, Charles Schwab Assist Treasurer, ASA.

Minutes of Meeting January-accepted as corrected , Karen Nichols made motion, date Typo date 2011, amount donated by Friends was \$5000,grant writing agreement ends June 30,2011,strike decrease Newsletter \$25.00 discussion to follow, Andy Francis correct spelling, correct time for Health care Forum 12:30 pm.-4:30 pm.

Introductions- Sue Culhane, retired coordinator Arlington Housing Authority long time Arlington resident, former teacher, interested in joining the Council, Deborah Miller is a geriatric nurse, still working interested as well. Maureen Jackson and Charles Schwab invited for discussion of payments for Newsletter.

New Business- Mrs. Jackson presented the following explanation of expenses and request for \$1200 annual fee to help cover the total cost of \$3,245 to mail 530 newsletters, Senior Notes, to ASA members, 60 copies out of town, 33 to COA members, staff, personnel.

Annual permit fee- \$185 cannot use non-profit status COA, Friends included-
 New USPO regulation

Wafer seals(3)per- \$ 80 new regulation
 Distribution \$ 600-\$50/month
 Mailing #623 \$143/month
 \$61/month 1st class stamps-COA \$18.00/month

Collation, articles, application of seals, placing funds at USPO Arlington is done by several individuals from ASA and COA.

John Jope explained that severe budget cuts would be incurred in FY2012.Municipal funds cannot used for newsletter, nor are Formula Grant Funds from Mass EOEA, nor CDBG monies. The source is gift monies donated for discretionary use by Executive Director. We face a possible 67% cut in CDBG funds for transportation and need the \$1200 for transportation program.

Karen Nichols suggested that we use a volunteer to distribute newsletters to senior housing, businesses, contributors to save \$600 a year. Annette Bender suggested finding a grant to cover the costs. Harry McCabe noted that we have an MOU with ASA to help cover costs. Ann F. stated ASA collects membership dues from members so they have a source of income for postage and they have far more members on their list.

Motion passed to continue payment until an agreement was reached by a Joint committee
 Of COA representation Annette B., Karen Nichols, Harry McCabe and ASA members to report back to both Boards with decisions. Date has to be determined.

REPORTS: Chair-February 4, 2011 Maureen and John appeared on "Our Town" ACMI studios as guests of League of Women Voters Arlington. They discussed Senior Services. The program will air in 3 weeks time on Cable TV.

We are moving forward with plans for March 17, 2011 Joint Social and Education Workshop. We have met with the Facilitator, Bill Gilligan who will help us, COA and ASA envision where we want to be in the next five years. Ideas will be posted to large sheets with similar themes, then the Joint Boards Committee will collate and send a report back. A chance to meet and greet with light supper precedes the discussion at 5:15pm.

Ann will write a grant and submit to CHNA17 due March 14, 2011 on access to health care for seniors as in need for transportation to MD visits, clinics, facilities. The Grant Writing Group will pursue other resources as well. The Active 50-70 Seniors group will meet March 16, 2011 7.00-9.00 at Robbins Library.

Executive Director-DART request for bids two submissions, Arlex, and Arbel bids too high, no bid from Veterans Taxi as Hackney license medallions applications frozen by Selectmen.. Lucilia P. asked for quick review of process for DART rides, or 2 tickets (coupons) for round trip, 8 coupons issued per month to senior who pays \$3.00 one way. 350 one way taxi rides provided per month. Arlington Housing Authority Coordinator has responded for a meeting with the Transportation Committee. Lahey Clinic Hospital donated \$11,500 to COA, \$2,000 Transportation, remainder for aquacise, Tai Chi, and chair Pilates. The religious series will begin March 29, 2011. Arlington Housing Authority Coordinator has responded for a meeting with the Transportation Committee. Municipal budget deficits have cut the part time social worker position from COA, state Formula Grant based on senior population 60 and older may be cut to \$5.75 per senior a loss of \$10,000. SW and Geriatric Nurse salaries are paid from these funds, remainder MCOA would be lost, the organization is proactive for seniors at the state level.

Community Development Block Grant funds could be cut up to 67% devastating our transportation programs, DART, Trans/Volunteer Coordinator, van driver and van rides. Please write to Congressman Markey, Senators Brown and Kerry and Chair of Appropriations Committee. Harry McCabe suggested the COA disband the DART program and use funds for vans. No motion made all want to wait for funding notification.

MSS-Annette B.-please recycle old phones for elder abuse clients. There will be a receptacle at Health Care Forum, elders can call out for help.

Transportation-Annette-20/20 survey partial results show lack of awareness of local transportation options for seniors, will need to increase residents awareness.

Regionalization may be rising across country but there is no action here, MBTA. Lucilia Prates stated that Merrimack Elder Services utilizes volunteer drivers. The Transportation Committee meets Thursday February 24, 2011 with Bill.

Health Forum-Annette-Letters to vendors will be sent out end of March., Dr. J. Ellison or Fred Silverstone social worker from the Geriatric Psychology unit at McLean cannot participate. Many other MDs will be called. Annette is hoping for 3 presentations.

Unfinished Business- Vote taken and passed to use \$700.00 from the Yamaji- Newcastle fund for the volunteer Luncheon April 15, 2011. Friends and ASA will also donate the same amount.

Policies and Procedures-Revised Review before vote to accept changes. Not enough copies on hand. Motion to table accepted until April meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Harry McCabe 5:48 pm.

Recorded and transcribed by Ann FitzGerald